



SKAGIT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

GARY ROWE, County Administrator

KENDRA SMITH, Natural Resources Coordinator

Minutes January 11, 2005

Meeting was called to order by Dave Chamberlain at 8:30 a.m. Members present were Paul Kriegel, Dick Whitmore, Ken Osborn, Al Craney, Gordy Iverson, Andy Blachly, Lisa Cassidy, Fred Loffer, Chuck Parker, Dave Chamberlain and Aubrey Stargell. Tim Raschko was absent. Kendra, Mark Edict, Desiree Douglas and Don Wick were also present.

Minutes were approved as written.

No public comments or correspondence.

Discussion Items:

1. Water typing: Dave handed gave a handout on what the manual calls for regarding criteria for change. Dick commented on CMER research showing big buffers for habitat not necessary. Paul feels onerous should be placed on agency, not landowner. Andy explained what the criteria called for in order to change the maps. Dick brought up the EIS which should take the social factors into consideration...there is a problem of cumulative effects that need to be considered.

*Andy, Aubrey and Kendra to draft a letter to report to the BoCC as to what is happening and hopefully the BoCC will pass this onto the Forest Practice Board.

*Aubrey is to review the white paper from the Washington Farm Bureau.

*FAB members need to be present at the Feb. 2, 2005, FPB workshop.

2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Desiree Douglas, County consultant with the Planning Department attended the meeting. She indicated that she had reviewed Hearing Board cases and other court cases relating to the GMA and forestry issues. She would make her findings available to the FAB. Al encouraged a County regulation to protect forestry by a "Right to Manage Timber Lands". He said there needs to be incentives. i.e. approved stewardship plan and a mechanism for cost share benefits. Ken said up to this point there was agreement by the FAB on the issues to date except the one on allowable density

SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

1800 CONTINENTAL PL, SUITE 100, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273 PHONE (360) 336-9300 FAX (360)336-9307

*Andy to review language on placement of houses in relationship to the Industrial Forest and report back to the FAB.

ACTION: Aubrey moved and it was seconded to hold a Special Meeting on January 24, 2005, to further the discussion on potential amendments to the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan and Regulations. The meeting will be held from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on January 24, 2005, at the Berry Patch.

3. Blanchard Mountain: It was suggested that the FAB write a letter (through Dave) to the paper to introduce itself and help educate the public on forestry as it is a renewable resource. It was also discussed that individuals should also take this opportunity to help continue the public education through letters to the paper on various topics relating to forest management. Al stated that stewardship and management were present. Ken stated that there is 1. no old growth, 2. DNR didn't track, 3. this is a shift from the wealthy to the wealthier, and 4. critical mass of wood volume being upset. Dave suggested a letter be drafted advising the BoCC on this issue.

ACTION: Dick moved and it was seconded that the letter be drafted by Ken and circulated via e-mail for review so that it can be presented to the FAB at the 1/24/05 Special meeting and that it contains the following talking points: Blanchard Mountain should remain under the HCP and not the new regulations. Recreation is already enhanced by timber managers. The HCP protects habitat and water resources- anything else is a contradiction to the Forest Practice Rules that stress viability. Besides, the Forest excise tax is paid by the timber purchasers and mills. This is a huge revenue loss to the schools. Passed unanimously.

4. Incubator project: Don Wick was introduced and then spoke generally about the potential grants available for start up "incubators" to promote such things as value added processing and other supportive businesses for the resource industries. The FAB felt that they should appeal to be part of this exploration. Don Wick stated that he felt that there needs to be timber available to be harvested.

At 10:30 Dave adjourned the meeting.